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JUDGE SPENCER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

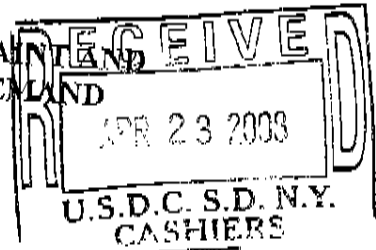
----- X
CARLOS RODRIGUEZ AND WENDY GARCIA,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, POLICE COMMISSIONER
RAYMOND W. KELLY, CAPTAIN BURGOS,
SERGEANT LONG, POLICE OFFICER DE LA CRUZ,
JOHN DOE ##1-25,

COMPLAINT
JURY DEMAND



ECF CASE

Defendants.
----- X

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is a civil rights action in which plaintiffs seek relief for the violation of his rights secured by 42 USC §1983 and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and the laws and Constitution of the State of New York.
2. The claim arises from an incident which took place on January 19, 2008 in which Officers of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), acting under color of state law, intentionally and willfully subjected plaintiffs to, among other things, unlawful stop and search, false arrest, excessive force, and issuance of a false accusatory instrument.
3. Plaintiffs seek monetary damages (special, compensatory, and punitive) against defendants, as well as an award of costs and attorneys' fees, and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURISDICTION

4. This action is brought pursuant to 28 USC §1331, 42 USC §1983, and the Fourth

and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Pendent party jurisdiction and supplementary jurisdiction over plaintiffs' state law claims are asserted

5. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00 excluding interest and costs.

6. Venue is laid within the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in that Defendant City of New York is located within and a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred within the boundaries of the Southern District of New York.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiffs are citizens of the United States and at all times here relevant resided in New York County, City and State of New York.

8. The City of New York is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.

9. New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly ("Kelly") was at all times here relevant the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, and, as such, was a policy maker with respect to training, supervision, and discipline of NYPD officers, including the other individual defendants. Kelly is sued in his individual and official capacities.

10. Captain Burgos ("Burgos") was at all times here relevant the commanding officer of the 34th Precinct, and, as such, was a policy maker with respect to training, supervision, and discipline of NYPD officers within the precinct, including the other individual defendants. Dowling is sued in his individual and official capacities.

11. All others individual defendants ("the officers") are employees of the NYPD, and are sued in their individual and official capacities.

12. At all times here mentioned defendants were acting under color of state law, to

wit, under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, customs and usages of the City and State of New York.

NOTICE OF CLAIM

13. Within 90 days of the events giving rise to this claim, plaintiff filed written notice of claim with the New York City Office of the Comptroller. Over 30 days have elapsed since the filing of that notice, and this matter has not been settled or otherwise disposed of.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

14. On January 19, 2008 at approximately 9:00 P.M., plaintiffs were checking out their groceries inside of the Path Mark supermarket located at 410 West 207th Street, New York, NY, when plaintiff Rodriguez was approached by defendant police officers.

15. Without probable cause or reasonable suspicion, defendant officers falsely arrested plaintiff Rodriguez and subjected him to excessive force. When plaintiff Garcia protested, she was assaulted and battered by a defendant police officer.

16. The defendant officers formed an agreement to stop, search and detain plaintiffs without probable cause or reasonable suspicion.

17. Defendant officers, including Captain Burgos, took steps to cover-up the arrest, including, but not limited to, falsely issuing a summons against plaintiff Rodriguez.

18. At all times during the events described above, the defendants were engaged in a joint venture. The individual officers assisted each other in performing the various actions described and lent their physical presence and support and the authority of their office to each other during said events. They failed to intervene in the obviously illegal actions of their fellow officers against plaintiff.

19. During all of the events above described, defendants acted maliciously and with

intent to injure plaintiff.

20. As a direct and proximate result of the acts of defendants, plaintiffs suffered the following injuries and damages:

- a. Violation of his rights pursuant to the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution to be free from an unreasonable search and seizure of his person and property;
- b. Violation of his right to Due Process of Law under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution;
- c. Violation of his New York State Constitutional rights under Article 1, Section 12 to be free from an unreasonable search and seizure;
- d. Violation of his New York State Constitutional right under Article 1, Section 6 to Due Process of Law;
- e. Physical pain and suffering, requiring medical treatment;
- f. Emotional trauma and suffering, including fear, embarrassment, humiliation, emotional distress, frustration, extreme inconvenience, and anxiety;
- g. Loss of liberty;
- h. Attorney's and court fees.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
(42 USC § 1983)

21. The preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.
22. Defendants have deprived plaintiffs of their civil, constitutional and statutory rights under color of law and have conspired to deprive him of such rights and are liable to plaintiffs under 42 USC § 1983.

23. Defendants' conduct deprived plaintiffs of their right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures, pursuant to the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Defendants' conduct also deprived plaintiffs of their right to due process of law, pursuant to the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

24. Plaintiffs have been damaged as a result of defendants' wrongful acts.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
(MUNICIPAL AND SUPERVISORY LIABILITY)

25. The preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

26. The City, Kelly, and Burgos are liable for the damages suffered by plaintiffs as a result of the conduct of their employees, agents, and servants.

27. The City, Kelly, and Burgos knew or should have known of their employees', agents', or servants' propensity to engage in the illegal and wrongful acts detailed above.

28. The aforesaid event was not an isolated incident. The City, Kelly, and Burgos have been aware for some time (from lawsuits, notices of claim and complaints filed with the Civilian Complaint Review Board) that many of their police officers are insufficiently trained on the proper basis to approach and stop individuals on the street, and the observations required to support reasonable suspicion and probable cause. The City, Kelly, and Burgos are further aware, from the same sources, that NYPD officers routinely ignore the necessary predicates for a street stop, routinely assault civilians, and that a "wall of silence" exists by which police officers assault citizens without fear of reprisal. The City, Kelly, and Burgos fail to discipline officers for not reporting fellow officers' misconduct that they have observed, and they fail to discipline officers for making false statements to disciplinary agencies. Further, there is no procedure to notify individual officers or their supervisors of unfavorable judicial review of their conduct. Without this notification, improper search and seizure practices and incredible testimony go

uncorrected. Additionally, The City, Kelly, and Burgos have isolated their law department from the discipline of police officers, so that civil suits against police officers for actions taken in their capacity as police officers have no impact on the officers' careers, regardless of the outcome of the civil actions. The City, Kelly, And Burgos are aware that all of the aforementioned has resulted in violations of citizens' constitutional rights. Despite such notice, the City has failed to take corrective action. This failure and these policies caused the officers in the present case to violate plaintiff's civil rights, without fear of reprisal.

29. The City, Kelly, and Burgos knew or should have known that the officers who caused plaintiffs injury had a propensity for the type of conduct that took place in this case. Nevertheless, The City, Kelly, and Burgos failed to take corrective action. Without proper supervision not only is this abusive and unconstitutional conduct ignored, it is condoned.

30. The City, Kelly, and Burgos have failed to take the steps to discipline, train, supervise or otherwise correct the improper, illegal conduct of the individual defendants in this and in similar cases involving misconduct.

31. The above described policies and customs demonstrated a deliberate indifference on the part of policymakers of The City, Kelly, and Burgos to the constitutional rights of persons within New York City, and were the cause of the violations of plaintiffs' rights here alleged.

32. Defendants The City, Kelly, And Burgos have damaged plaintiffs by their failure to properly train, supervise, discipline, review, remove, or correct the illegal and improper acts of their employees, agents or servants in this and in similar cases involving police misconduct.

33. Plaintiffs have been damaged as a result of the wrongful, negligent and illegal acts of the The City, Kelly, and Burgos.

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
(ASSAULT)**

34. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

35. Upon approaching each plaintiff, defendants made plaintiffs fear for their physical well-being and safety and placed him in apprehension of immediate harmful and/or offensive touching.

36. Defendants have deprived plaintiffs of their civil, constitutional and statutory rights and have conspired to deprive them of such rights and are liable to plaintiffs under common law, 42 USC §1983 and the New York State Constitution.

37. Plaintiffs were damaged by defendants' assaults.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (BATTERY)

38. The above paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

39. Defendants engaged in and subjected plaintiffs to immediate harmful and/or offensive touching and battered him.

40. Defendants used excessive and unnecessary force with plaintiffs.

41. Defendants have deprived plaintiffs of there common law, civil, constitutional and statutory rights and have conspired to deprive him of such rights and are liable to plaintiffs under 42 USC §1983 and the New York State Constitution.

42. Plaintiffs were damaged by the battery of the defendants.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (FALSE ARREST)

43. The preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

44. Defendants subjected plaintiff Rodriguez to false arrest, false imprisonment, false detention, and deprivation of liberty without probable cause.

45. Defendants have deprived plaintiff of his civil, constitutional and statutory rights and have conspired to deprive him of such rights and are liable to plaintiff under 42 USC §§1983, New York State common law, and the New York State Constitution.

46. As a result of the false arrest, imprisonment, detention and deprivation of liberty, plaintiff was damaged.

**SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(MALICIOUS PROSECUTION)**

47. The preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

48. Defendants, acting with malice, initiated a prosecution against plaintiff and caused him to be prosecuted.

49. The criminal proceedings were terminated favorably to defendant.

50. Defendants have deprived plaintiff of his civil, constitutional and statutory rights and have conspired to deprive him of such rights and are liable to plaintiff under 42 USC §1983, New York State common law, and the New York State Constitution.

51. As a result of the malicious prosecution implemented by defendants, plaintiff was damaged.

**SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(CONSTITUTIONAL TORT)**

52. The preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

53. Defendants, acting under color of law, violated plaintiff's rights pursuant to §§6 and 12 of the New York State Constitution.

54. A damages remedy here is necessary to effectuate the purposes of §§6 and 12 of the New York State Constitution, and appropriate to ensure full realization of plaintiffs' rights under those sections.

**EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR)**

55. The preceding paragraphs are here incorporated by reference.

56. Defendants' intentional tortious acts were undertaken within the scope of their employment by defendant City of New York and in furtherance of the defendant City of New York's interest.

57. As a result of defendants' tortious conduct in the course of their employment and in furtherance of the business of defendant City of New York, plaintiff was damaged.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

- A. In favor of plaintiff in an amount to be determined by a jury for each of plaintiff's causes of action;
- B. Awarding plaintiff punitive damages in an amount to be determined by a jury;
- C. Awarding plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements of this action; and
- D. Granting such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

DATED: Brooklyn, New York
April 22, 2008

TO: New York City
Corporation Counsel Office
100 Church Street, 4th floor
New York, NY 10007

Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly
1 Police Plaza
Room 1406
New York, NY 10006

Captain Burgos
34th Precinct
4295 Broadway
New York, NY 10033

Sergeant Long
34th Precinct
4295 Broadway
New York, NY 10033

Police Officer De La Cruz
34th Precinct
4295 Broadway
New York, NY 10033

Yours, etc.,



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